

Discussion

RYU Yeon-Taek*

GeoNyms as solution for multiple geographical names (by Yoseph MEKASHA AKALEMARIAM)

Your paper shows a software solution to the problem of conflicting or competing geographical names for a geographical feature in a national context. What could be possible or feasible solutions to the problem of contesting geographical names for a geographical feature in an '*international*' context?

In your paper, you mentioned that a geographical feature may have been given multiple names by different interested parties. In a similar vein, the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago should have dual names, namely '*East Sea*' and '*Sea of Japan*', considering that the name of '*East Sea*' signifies important history of Koreans and has deep meaning that resonates with Korean cultural heritage.

You argued that the problem of conflicting geographical names for a geographical feature can be tackled by designing a geographical names system that accommodates multiple names for a single geographical feature. The implementation of GeoNyms, as solution for multiple geographical names, can provide insights into the dual naming or using multiple alternate endonyms and exonyms for the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago.

According to your paper, GeoNyms builds a searchable database that registers a feature with all its names and the background history accompanying them. In addition, you argued that this creates a situation of complementing each other instead of competing as far as the relationship of multiple geographical names are concerned. In a similar context, the dual names of '*East Sea*' and '*Sea of Japan*' are complementing each other instead of competing.

* Associate Professor, Department of Geography Education, Chungbuk National University, Korea

You noted that there are cases of exonyms during colonial occupation and exploration. These exonyms became popular and got wide usage due to the imposition of geographical names by colonial powers. Likewise, the name of '*Sea of Japan*' got wide usage due to the Japanese colonialism. In a postcolonial sense, Koreans want to ensure the restoration of the name of '*East Sea*' that reflects the cultural heritage of the Korean society. This restoration movement is very appropriate in that the UNCISG and UNCEG have recently stressed geographical names as cultural heritage.

One of the most important features of GeoNyms is to record multiple conflicting (contesting) geographical names with equal values as alternate toponyms by capturing the full history of the multiple endonyms and exonyms with reference to their cultural heritage values.

Cultural, social and historic aspects of marine name disputes (by Abdullah ELSADIG ALI)

In your paper, you mentioned that some marine name disputes are easy to resolve because of the existence of common history, cultural and social interconnections between disputing factions. Could you provide any examples of this?

You stated that most geographic name disputes occur when external names are given mostly by colonial powers. The current sea naming disputes between Korea and Japan are closely intertwined with the fact that the external name '*Sea of Japan*' was imposed during the Japanese colonialization.

Kenya case study: Lessons learnt in field collection of geographical names (by Charles M. K. MWANGI)

You mentioned that, in Kenya, efforts have been made to change exonyms to endonyms in order to reflect local communities' cultural and historical heritage. Kenya is a multilingual nation composed of people with diverse languages and different alphabets. Therefore, in Kenya, a geographical feature might have different names from the different languages. I'm wondering whether the Kenya's Standing Committee on Geographical Names allow multiple geographical names for a certain geographical feature.